AHFMR 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

Health Technology Assessment on the Net: A Guide to Internet Sources of Information

Seventh edition

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT UNIT

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PREFACE

It was brought to our attention that in earlier editions we did not explicitly state our selection criteria for the websites included in the guide. We have no formal criteria - other than that these sites have been particularly useful to us in our HTA literature searches. However, the sites we include usually meet most of the following criteria.

Selection Criteria

- developed by non-profit agencies (such as government funded organizations and universities) = **authority and reliability**
- updated regularly (with the exception of some sites which have been included for historical purposes) = **currency**
- contains valuable information for health technology assessment = **applicability**
- the bibliographic databases generally contain peer-reviewed studies; the health technology assessment and evidence-based health sources generally follow accepted methods for ensuring the comprehensiveness, transparency and reliability of the methods used in their systematic reviews = **validity**
- most of these sites are fairly easy to navigate and search = **usability**

The validity of our selections has not been formally tested. Readers should use their own critical appraisal skills to judge the quality of the information they find on these websites. Many guides to assessing the quality of health information on the Internet are available, for example: the Canadian Health Network guide, *Using health information on the Internet* (http://www.canadian-health-network.ca/servlet/ContentServer?cid=1042668266218&pagename=CHN-RCS/Page/ShellStaticContentPageTemplate&c=Page&lang=En) or the *HON Code of Conduct (HONcode) for medical and health Web sites* (http://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Conduct.html).

This year we continue to provide a ***"bookmarks"*** file to accompany the guide. The bookmarks can be downloaded from the AHFMR website (http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta/bookmarks/bookmark_instructions.pdf) to your computer to allow easy access to these sources when you need them.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements i
Preface ii
Introduction 1
Free Bibliographic Databases 2
Commercial Bibliographic Databases ($$$) 3
Canadian HTA Sites 5
International HTA Sites 6
Clinical Trials 8
Complementary & Alternative Medicine 9
Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) & Critical Appraisal 10
Critical Appraisal: 11
Government & Research Information 12
Canada 12
International 13
United Kingdom 13
United States 13
Health Economics 15
Knowledge Transfer and Research Utilization 17
Practice Guidelines 18
Quality of Life 20
Further Information 21
Distance learning in HTA 21
Listservs 22
Literature Searching Guides 22
Open Access (Free) Electronic Journals 22

INTRODUCTION

The foundation for any health technology assessment (HTA) is information. In fact, health technology assessment is the synthesis of many pieces of information from many different sources. The purpose of an HTA is to provide health care decision-makers with the evidence they need to make informed decisions concerning the introduction, allocation and cost-effective use of medical technologies.

Since its beginnings in the United States in the early 1970s, health technology assessment has expanded throughout the world. This growth has been accompanied by the development of many useful sources for HTA information. Some of these sources are produced by government and HTA agencies, while others are the products of centres involved in advancing evidence-based health care, such as the international Cochrane Collaboration.

Although a few of these resources were available in pre-Internet days, the Internet has had a tremendous impact on the amount of information available to us. However, as with all searches on the World Wide Web, the quantity of information can be overwhelming, and information from some websites may be biased, out-of-date or of poor quality. The key to efficient searching is to know where reliable and relevant information can most often be found.

This guide focuses on Internet sites, particularly those that may be useful for people involved in health care in Alberta, Canada, but health technology assessments will also incorporate data from other sources. These may include specialized bibliographic databases relevant to the subject of the assessment; data from government and regulatory agencies; administrative databases; industry studies, and advice from experts in the field. Traditional print resources, such as medical textbooks, may also provide background information. These sources will vary depending on the subject and scope of the assessment.

Typically, a literature search for a technology assessment will begin with the major biomedical databases, such as PubMed, and with searches to determine if other HTA agencies have already assessed this technology. Such information is now easily accessible, via the Internet, at the sites listed in this guide.

FREE BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES

✓ **PubMed**: The US National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s free search interface provides access to over 15 million citations covering biomedical literature back to the 1950's in MEDLINE, PreMEDLINE (in process citations), OLDMEDLINE, and publisher supplied records: http://pubmed.gov. The Special Queries feature uses filters and hedges to help focus PubMed searches for Systematic Reviews, Health Services Research and Clinical Queries: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/special_queries.html

✓ **Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD):** This UK centre provides several databases: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm

- **Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database:** reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
- **NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED)**: published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
- **Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE):** reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions.
- **Ongoing Reviews Database:** ongoing systematic reviews in health care: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/ongoing.htm

✓ **NLM Gateway:** Access to many US NLM databases, including: Clinical Trials.gov, MEDLINE/PubMed, LOCATORplus, MEDLINEplus, DIRLINE, Meeting Abstracts, TOXLINE Special and HSRProj: http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov

✓ **AgeLine:** "Social gerontology" studies, including health research, on adults aged 50+: http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline

✓ **Cancer.gov:** Includes the PDQ® (Physician Data Query) database of cancer prevention, screening, genetics, diagnostic and treatment information, cancer clinical trials, statistics and patient guides: http://www.cancer.gov

✓ **The Campbell Library**: Systematic reviews of social, behavioral and educational interventions: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org

✓ **ERIC:** Database of the Educational Resources Information Center includes health-related educational information: http://eric.ed.gov

COMMERCIAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES ($$$)

Many other databases are available through commercial vendors, such as Dialog (http://www.dialogweb.com), OVID Technologies (http://www.ovid.com), and others. Charges ($$$) are usually involved for searching these databases, or they may be available through your organization's library, or local university, public or health care libraries. Check with your librarian for information on access to these sources. Specialized databases, covering biomedical engineering, drug information, occupational health and safety, etc., are also available through these vendors.

- ✓ **BIOSIS Previews:** $$$ Covers the field of biological sciences, including medicine. It indexes journal articles, meeting and conference reports, books and patents. Consider searching here for information on new research, pharmaceuticals and emerging technologies: http://www.biosis.org
- ✓ **CINAHL:** $$$ The Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, CINAHL is also useful for coverage of the literature on occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and alternative medicine: http://www.cinahl.com
- ✓ **Clinical Evidence:** $$$ A clinical therapy resource of regularly updated evidence-based summaries, including a useful drug names table: http://www.clinicalevidence.com
- ✓ **The Cochrane Library:** $$$ Updated quarterly. The source for quality, systematic reviews of health care interventions; includes several databases (shown below). A subscription is required for full access (most health libraries have subscriptions; some countries have open access agreements with the publisher to make it freely available in their country): http://www.thecochranelibrary.com

  Those without a subscription can access the abstracts of the systematic reviews, free of charge, at: http://www.update-software.com/abstracts/mainindex.htm or can purchase the individual reviews online from the publisher.

  - *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* - access the full text of systematic reviews in all areas of health care, and study protocols for Cochrane Reviews currently underway.
  - *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials* – references to over 400,000 clinical trials.
  - *Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE)* - reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions prepared by the UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination.

- *The NHS Economic Evaluation Database* - published economic evaluations of health care interventions.
- *Health Technology Assessment Database* – reports from INAHTA members and other HTA agencies.
- *Cochrane Methodology Register* – references on how to conduct systematic reviews.
- *Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews* - the full text of systematic reviews prepared by The Cochrane Empirical Methodological Studies Methods Group.

✓ **EMBASE:** $$$ A database covering international literature in the fields of biomedical sciences and pharmacology: http://www.embase.com

✓ **ISI Web of Knowledge:** $$$ Includes Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Current Contents Connect, and other databases. These databases cover literature in the fields of science and technology, social sciences and humanities: http://www.isiwebofknowledge.com/

✓ **PsycINFO:** $$$ Literature in the fields of psychology, psychiatry and behavioural sciences. Consider searching here for information on health-related quality of life, mental health therapies and programs, psychiatric drug assessments, etc.: http://www.apa.org/psycinfo

CANADIAN HTA SITES

- **Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS):** Quebec's provincial HTA agency. AETMIS reports are usually first published in French, and later translated into English: http://www.aetmis.gouv.qc.ca
- **Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR), Health Technology Assessment Unit:** The Alberta provincial HTA agency. The HTA Unit assessment reports and other publications are available online or print copies can be ordered here: http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/hta
- **British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment (BCOHTA):** British Columbia's provincial HTA agency was closed in 2002, but their assessment reports are still available on the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research website: http://www.chspr.ubc.ca
- **Calgary Health Technology Implementation Unit (CaHTIU)**: An Alberta agency that links health research and applied HTA: http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/htiu/project.html
- **Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA):** Canada's national HTA agency publishes their assessments in both English and French, in print and on their website: http://www.ccohta.ca
- **Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences in Ontario (ICES):** Ontario's health services and utilization research agency: http://www.ices.on.ca
- **Institute for Work and Health (IWH)**: A not-for-profit organization that publishes systematic reviews related to workplace injury prevention and treatments, such as for back pain: http://www.iwh.on.ca
- **Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC):** Established in 2001 to advise the MUHC hospitals on HTA issues: http://www.mcgill.ca/tau/
- **Ontario. Medical Advisory Secretariat:** The Ontario government unit that evaluates health technologies: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/mas_mn.html
- **Therapeutics Initiative:** Evidence-based drug assessments from the British Columbia Therapeutics Initiative: http://www.ti.ubc.ca

INTERNATIONAL HTA SITES

We have not attempted to list all the international HTA agencies below. Information on most of these agencies and links to their websites can be found through the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) website. The **HTA Database** (http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/crddatabases.htm) indexes most reports from HTA agencies. The sites below have additional features or information that may not be indexed in the HTA Database.

- ✓ **International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA):** INAHTA members include the main publicly funded HTA agencies worldwide. The site includes links to the member agencies (39 HTA agencies are currently members): http://www.inahta.org
- ✓ **Health Technology Assessment – international (HTAi)**: Formerly the International Society for Technology Assessment in Health Care (ISTAHC); HTAi is the new association for individuals and agencies involved in health technology assessment. HTAi also hosts the Vortal of HTA websites: http://www.htai.org
- ✓ **EuroScan (European Information Network on New and Changing Health Technologies)**: Information on new and emerging health technologies. (Look under the Technology Reports section for a subset of the publications available to non-EuroScan members): http://www.euroscan.bham.ac.uk.
- ✓ **Australia - Australian Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIPS):** Assessments of surgical procedures http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s and a "horizon scanning" (NET-S) database which tracks and assesses new and emerging surgical procedures: http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/net-s/index.htm
- ✓ **Australia - Joanna Briggs Institute:** $$$ Systematic reviews related to allied health and nursing. Some publications are free, but membership required for full access to others: http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au
- ✓ **UK - Health Evidence Bulletins – Wales:** Assessments of health care interventions and a useful project methodology guide for health technology assessment: http://hebw.uwcm.ac.uk
- ✓ **UK - National Horizon Scanning Centre:** Emerging health technology assessment briefs (look under the section titled Outputs to find these publications): http://www.publichealth.bham.ac.uk/horizon

- ✓ **UK - National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHTA):** The UK national office for HTA website has a useful database of published and in progress research and the full text of their assessment reports: http://www.ncchta.org
- ✓ **UK - National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE):** On 1 April 2005 NICE joined with the Health Development Agency to become the new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (also to be known as NICE). Guidance and technology appraisal reports, and patient information for the UK NHS: http://www.nice.org.uk
- ✓ **US – Aetna Inc.** Bulletins to inform coverage decisions on medical technologies, procedures and pharmaceuticals: http://www.aetna.com/about/cov_det_policies.html
- ✓ **US - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ):** US federal government technology assessments and research on healthcare outcomes, quality, costs, utilization and access: http://www.ahrq.gov
- ✓ **US - Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Association. Technology Evaluation Center (TEC):** Assessment reports and information on assessments currently underway: http://www.bcbs.com/tec
- ✓ **US – California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP):** Assessments of medical technologies in relation to health insurance legislation and coverage in the state of California: http://www.chbrp.org/
- ✓ **US - Congress. Office of Technology Assessment:** A full text archive to the publications of the now defunct OTA: http://www.wws.princeton.edu/~ota
- ✓ **US - ECRI:** $$$ An independent non-profit health technology assessment agency. ECRI assessments can be accessed with a subscription or purchased individually: http://www.ecri.org
- ✓ **US - Hayes Inc.:** $$$ A company that specializes in HTA. Sample reports and a directory of Hayes' assessments are available free of charge, other publications are available to subscribers or can be purchased individually: http://www.hayesinc.com
- ✓ **US - Oregon Drug Effectiveness Review Project:** A collaborative project to assess the effectiveness of drugs within the same class: http://www.ohsu.edu/drugeffectiveness/index.htm

CLINICAL TRIALS

✓ **CCT Current Controlled Trials:** Clinical trials, protocols and other information, including the metaRegister of Controlled Trials (mRCT) - an international database combining multiple registries of ongoing controlled trials in healthcare: http://www.controlled-trials.com

✓ **CenterWatch:** A clinical trials listing service and information source for the clinical trial industry: http://www.centerwatch.com

✓ **Clinical Study Results:** A repository sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) for clinical study results in a reader-friendly format. This database contains trial results for U.S.-marketed pharmaceuticals: http://clinicalstudyresults.org

✓ **ClinicalTrials.gov:** A database of clinical trials compiled by the US National Institutes of Health: http://clinicaltrials.gov

✓ **International Register of Clinical Trials Registers**: Listings of clinical trials registries in different medical specialties: http://www.trialscentral.org

National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group: Clinical trials in cancer and supportive care led by the NCIC Clinical Trials Group: http://www.ctg.queensu.ca

✓ **National Cancer Institute (US) PDQ® Clinical Trials database:** PDQ, part of the Cancer.gov website, includes a database of ongoing and completed cancer trials, and information on cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment: http://www.cancer.gov/clinical_trials

COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

✓ **The Alternative Medicine Homepage:** A portal for resources in this field: http://www.pitt.edu/~cbw/altm.html

✓ **AMED (Allied and Complementary Database):** $$$ Produced by the British Library, this database covers allied and alternative medicine, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic and herbal medicines: http://www.bl.uk/collections/health/amed.html

✓ **Bandolier Library - Complementary and Alternative Therapies**: A collection of best evidence on complementary and alternative health interventions: http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/booth/booths/altmed.html

✓ **Complementary and Alternative Medicine (New Zealand):** An evidence-based resource for complementary and alternative medicine: http://www.cam.org.nz

Health Canada Natural Health Products Directorate: Canada's governmental agency for the regulation of alternative and herbal medicines: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/nhpd-dpsn

✓ **National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine:** The US agency for the assessment of complementary medicine: http://www.nccam.nih.gov

✓ **Quackwatch:** A non-profit service to combat health-related frauds, myths, fads, and fallacies: http://www.quackwatch.org

✓ **Research Council for Complementary Medicine**: A UK research agency for complementary and alternative medicine: http://www.rccm.org.uk

EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE (EBM) & CRITICAL APPRAISAL

- ✓ **Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility (ARIF):** Summaries of EBM questions and answers from health agencies in the West Midlands, UK: http://www.bham.ac.uk/arif
- **Alberta Research Centre for Child Health Evidence (ARCHE):** Evidence summaries and systematic reviews on child health: http://www.ualberta.ca/ARCHE/reviews.html
- ✓ **ATTRACT:** UK service that provides rapid, evidence-based answers to clinical questions: http://www.attract.wales.nhs.uk
- ✓ **Bandolier:** Evidence-based health care summaries, links to EBM sites, number needed to treat (NNT) calculators, and more: http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk/bandolier
- ✓ **BestBETs:** Brief appraisals of topics in clinical medicine :http://www.bestbets.org
- **Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre:** Information on Cochrane review, field and methods groups and affiliated organizations in Canada, health care news, evidence-based medicine training and e-newsletters about Cochrane Collaboration initiatives: http://cochrane.mcmaster.ca/default.asp
- **Critically Appraised Topics in Rehabilitation Therapy:** Brief summaries of critically appraised clinical rehabilitation topics: http://www.rehab.queensu.ca/cats
- ✓ **James Lind Library:** An online library documenting the history of the assessment of medical interventions: http://www.jameslindlibrary.org
- ✓ **Netting the Evidence: A ScHARR Introduction to Evidence-Based Practice on the Internet:** Tools, links and resources for critical appraisal and literature searching: http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/~scharr/ir/netting
- **Occupational Therapy Evidence-Based Practice Research Group:** McMaster University's site for occupational therapy: http://www-fhs.mcmaster.ca/rehab/ebp
- ✓ **OTseeker:** Abstracts of critically appraised systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy: http://www.otseeker.com

✓ **PEDro:** Physiotherapy Evidence Database from the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy (CEBP): http://www.pedro.fhs.usyd.edu.au/index.html

✓ **TRIP (Turning Research into Practice) Database:** An evidence based site that allows searching across different types of evidence-based products. $$$Non-subscribers are limited to 5 searches per week: http://www.tripdatabase.com

Critical Appraisal:

✓ **Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (Oxford Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine):** Resources on EBM for students, teachers and clinicians; including an EBM toolbox and levels of evidence and grades of recommendation: http://www.cebm.net

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine (University Health Network, Toronto): Resources on how to practice and teach evidence-based medicine: http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca

✓ **Critical Appraisal Skills Programme:** CASP provides online critical appraisal skills training, tools and resources: http://www.phru.nhs.uk/casp/appraisa.htm

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Workshop: Coordinated by the McMaster University, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the longest running critical appraisal workshop in North America: http://www.cche.net/ebcp/

Evidence-Based Medicine Tool Kit: Online learning resource for evidence-based medicine /critical appraisal produced by the University of Alberta, Canada: http://www.med.ualberta.ca/ebm/ebm.htm

✓ **How to Read a Paper:** A series of articles (also issued as a book) by Trisha Greenhalgh on appraising various types of studies in the medical literature: http://bmj.com/collections/read.shtml

Putting Evidence Into Practice Workshop: The University of Alberta & Capital Health Authority's Evidence-Based Practice Centre workshop, held in Edmonton, Alberta: http://www.pep.ualberta.ca/

✓ **Users' Guides to Evidence-Based Practice:** The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) users' guides to appraising the medical literature are available here: http://www.cche.net/usersguides/main.asp

GOVERNMENT & RESEARCH INFORMATION

Canada

- **Alberta Health and Wellness:** The Alberta government ministry of health website, with ministry publications and links to Regional Health Authorities in the province: http://www.health.gov.ab.ca

- **Cabot.ca:** This database of Canadian health services research literature is currently under review by the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research: http://cahspr.ca/cabot

- **Canadian Evaluation Society (CES):** This evaluation association website includes a grey literature database: http://www.evaluationcanada.ca

- **Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF):** Research on health policy and management, and methods for promoting the use of research findings: http://www.chsrf.ca

- **Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI):** CIHI compiles statistical data about the Canadian health care system, including diagnostic imaging, hospital-based procedures, and population health: http://www.cihi.ca

- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):** Canada's federal funding agency for health research: http://www.cihr.ca

- **Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP**): Systematic reviews in public health produced by the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) Program, in Ontario: http://www.hamilton.ca/PHCS/EPHPP

- **Health Canada:** The federal government ministry responsible for health care in Canada http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca. Includes the **Drug Product Database- DPD** of licensed pharmaceuticals: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/index_drugs_dpd_e.html and the **Medical Devices Active Licence Listing (MDALL) database** of licensed medical devices: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/tpd-dpt/mdlic_e.html

- **Health-Evidence.ca:** Quality research evidence on public health interventions: http://health-evidence.ca

- **Health Quality Council (HQC):** Saskatchewan's agency for health system quality and research: http://www.hqc.sk.ca

- **Health Quality Council of Alberta (HQCA):** Alberta's health quality, utilization and outcomes research agency: http://www.hqca.ca
- **Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP):** Manitoba's health services and utilization research agency: http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp
- **National Network of Libraries for Health:** Canada's new network to promote access to health information: http://www.chla-absc.ca/nnlh/index.html
- **Statistics Canada:** Canada's national statistical agency. Charges for some data, but certain reports, for example, on key health indicators, are available free of charge: http://www.statcan.ca

International

- ✓ **Health Evidence Network (HEN):** A WHO site that provides assessments of public health interventions for health care decision-makers: http://www.euro.who.int/HEN

United Kingdom

- ✓ **Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency:** The UK agency which regulates drugs and health technologies: http://www.medical-devices.gov.uk
- ✓ **National Electronic Library for Health (NeLH):** Extensive and wide range of resources including Guideline Finder, Protocol and Care Pathways, and Specialists' Libraries to support healthcare-related decisions. http://www.nelh.nhs.uk. It is part of the National Library for Health http://www.library.nhs.uk
- ✓ **National Research Register:** A database of completed and ongoing UK health research (includes the CRD Register of Reviews, a database of ongoing systematic reviews): http://www.update-software.com/National
- ✓ **Research Findings electronic Register (ReFeR):** Completed research studies funded by the UK Department of Health: http://www.refer.nhs.uk

United States

- ✓ **Computer Retrieval of Information on Scientific Projects (CRISP):** A database of US federally funded biomedical research: http://crisp.cit.nih.gov

- ✓ **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:** Formerly the US Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), this federal agency also produces assessments of technologies relevant to the special populations they serve: http://www.cms.gov
- ✓ **Food & Drug Administration (FDA):** The US federal regulatory agency for human and animal drugs, biologics, medical devices and consumer health products: http://www.fda.gov
- ✓ **General Accounting Office (GAO):** Responsible for audits and evaluations of government policies and programs, including those related to healthcare: http://www.gao.gov
- ✓ **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** The main site for US federally funded medical and behavioural research: http://www.nih.gov
- ✓ **RAND:** Research reports in many disciplines, including many relevant to health policy and health technology assessment: http://www.rand.org

HEALTH ECONOMICS

🇨🇦 **Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research:** Formerly the Canadian Health Economics Association, this association has expanded to include health services and policy research, in addition to health economics: http://www.cahspr.ca/

✓ **Centre for Health Economics, University of York:** Research at the Centre includes economic assessments of health technologies: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che

🇨🇦 **Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), McMaster University:** Publications include many relevant to economic evaluation and health technology assessment: http://www.chepa.org

✓ **Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation:** An Australian centre for health economics and health services research. http://www.chere.uts.edu.au/index.html

✓ **EconLit:** $$$ This database includes information on health economics and economic evaluation of medical technologies. Available through commercial database vendors: http://www.econlit.org

✓ **Health Economic Evaluations Database (HEED):** $$$ A database of health economics literature compiled by the UK Office of Health Economics and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Associations: http://www.ohe-heed.com

✓ **Health Economics Information Resources:** A self-study course by Moira Napper: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/edu/healthecon

✓ **Health Economics Resource Centre, University of York**: Includes a guide to Health Economics Resources on the Internet: http://www.york.ac.uk/res/herc/hercwelcome.htm

🇨🇦 **Institute of Health Economics:** Canadian research in health economics, outcomes and policy research: http://www.ihe.ab.ca

✓ **International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR):** An international organization promoting the science of pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research: http://www.ispor.org. Includes a section: Pharmacoeconomic Guidelines Around the World http://www.ispor.org/PEguidelines/index.asp. ISPOR also offers a distance learning program $$$: http://www.ispor.org/distancelearning/index.asp

- ✓ **National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER):** Abstracts of working papers from the NBER healthcare and health programs ($$$ apply for the full text of working papers): http://www.nber.org
- ✓ **NHS Economic Evaluation Database:** One of the three UK CRD databases: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/nhsdhp.htm. Also available on the CRD web site is a guide to Information Resources in Health Economics: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/econ.htm

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND RESEARCH UTILIZATION

- **Knowledge Utilization Database (KU-UC):** Compiled by the CHSRF/CIHR Chair on Knowledge Transfer and Innovation, at the Université Laval, this site indexes information on knowledge utilization, innovation, health policy and management: http://kuuc.chair.ulaval.ca

- **Knowledge Utilization Resource Guide:** A guide produced by the Knowledge Utilization and Policy Implementation (KUPI) research program based at the University of Alberta: http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/kusp/Resources_Guide.htm

- **Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF):** The Knowledge Transfer and Exchange branch of CHSRF includes a glossary of terms and useful resources in this field: http://www.chsrf.ca/knowledge_transfer

- ✓ **Research Unit for Research Utilisation (RURU):** Publications on research transfer and impact assessment, and a searchable database of relevant literature: http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~ruru/

PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- **Alberta. Toward Optimized Practice:** This program succeeds the former Alberta Clinical Practice Guidelines program. It is sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association, Alberta Health and Wellness, the College of Physicians and Surgeons and Alberta's Regional Health Authorities: http://www.topalbertadoctors.org/guidelines/guidelinespdf.aspx
- **British Columbia Medical Services Plan:** Clinical practice guidelines and protocols from the BC Ministry of Health Services: http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/msp/protoguides/index.html
- **Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care:** Task Force guidelines on screening and preventive health measures: http://www.ctfphc.org
- **CMA Infobase Clinical Practice Guidelines:** A database of Canadian guidelines compiled by the Canadian Medical Association: http://mdm.ca/cpgsnew/cpgs/index.asp
- **College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta**: Standards for medical practice in Alberta: http://www.cpsa.ab.ca/publicationsresources/policies.asp
- **Cancer Care Ontario Practice Guidelines Initiative (CCOPGI):** Guidelines and evidence summaries for cancer treatment: http://www.cancercare.on.ca/access_PEBC.htm
- ✓ **HSTAT (Health Services/Technology Assessment Text):** Practice guidelines, consumer information and consensus statements from US government agencies: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=hstat
- ✓ **National Comprehensive Cancer Network:** Clinical practice guidelines in oncology: http://www.nccn.org
- ✓ **National Guideline Clearinghouse**: US evidence-based clinical practice guidelines: http://www.guidelines.gov
- ✓ **National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) Guidelines Finder:** Database of UK national guidelines: http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/guidelinesfinder
- ✓ **New Zealand Guidelines Group:** Evidence-based clinical guidelines and consumer guides: http://www.nzgg.org.nz

- ✓ **PRODIGY (Practical Support for Clinical Governance):** UK clinical guidance and patient information: http://www.prodigy.nhs.uk/clinicalguidance

- **Rehabilitation Guidelines**: Evidence-based rehabilitation guidelines compiled by the University of Ottawa: http://fss.hs.uottawa.ca/EBCpg/english/main.htm

- ✓ **Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN):** Scottish guidelines and guideline development methods: http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sign/index.html

- ✓ **US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF):** Systematic reviews of preventive health services: http://www.ahcpr.gov/clinic/uspstfix.htm

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ✓ **Mapi Research Institute:** Information on health related quality of life, including the PROQOLID (Patient-Reported Outcome and Quality of Life Instruments Database): http://www.mapi-research.fr
- ✓ **Health Related Quality of Life**: Quality of life information compiled by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion: http://www.cdc.gov/hrqol
- ✓ **International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL):** Information on the association's conferences, journal, and an annotated bibliography of key articles on health related quality of life: http://www.isoqol.org

FURTHER INFORMATION

- ✓ **Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (formerly the Reviewers' Handbook):** The official guide for conducting Cochrane systematic reviews:
  http://www.cochrane.org/resources/handbook/index.htm
- ✓ **Health Technology Assessment Handbook:** A guide to undertaking a health technology assessment produced by the Danish Centre for Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (DACEHTA):
  http://sst.dk/Applikationer/cemtv/publikationer/docs/Metodehaandbog/MethodologyHandbook180601.pdf
- ✓ **TA 101: Introduction to Health Care Technology Assessment:** by Cliff Goodman. An overview of HTA, including the methods and steps involved in conducting an assessment:
  http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hta101/ta101_c1.html
- ✓ **UK West Midlands Development and Evaluation Service Handbook:** A guide to writing a rapid review:
  http://www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/wmhtac/pdf/wmhandbook.pdf
- ✓ **Undertaking Systematic Reviews of Research on Effectiveness**: The UK CRD's guide to commissioning and conducting systematic reviews:
  http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/report4.htm

Distance learning in HTA

- ✓ **Applied Health Technology Assessment:** $$$An introductory course for health care decision makers offered by Hayes Inc.:
  http://www.hayesinc.com/training-ahta.php
- **Health Technology Assessment: Decision-Making for Health:** $$$A 12 week distance learning course offered by the Quebec HTA agency, AETMIS:
  http://www.onlinehta.org/
- ✓ **The Ulysses Project: International Master's Program in Health Technology Assessment and Management:** $$ Not exactly distance learning – students register at one of four participating universities (in Rome, Barcelona, Ottawa or Montreal), and take courses at these centres through the course of the program:
  http://www.hta-master.com

Listservs

Listservs can be a useful way to learn of new research or share questions and discussions with colleagues. Follow the instructions below to sign up for these HTA-related listservs.

- ✓ **Cochrane Collaboration Electronic Newsletter (ccinfo-list):** http://mailman.mcmaster.ca/mailman/listinfo/ccinfo-list
- ✓ **Evidence-Based Health:** http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/EVIDENCE-BASED-HEALTH.html
- ✓ **International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assesment (INAHTA)** (for INAHTA members only): http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/inahta
- ✓ **SPIG-IR listserv** (a listserv for those interested in HTA information sources and services): http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/spig-ir

Literature Searching Guides

- ✓ **Finding Studies for Systematic Reviews: A Checklist for Researchers:** A guide to systematic literature searching produced by the UK CRD: http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/revs.htm
- ✓ **Etext on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Information Resources**: An electronic textbook, written by HTA researchers and librarians from around the world. This e-text provides in-depth coverage of methods and sources used in searching for HTA information: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/ehta/
- **Evidence-based Resource Sheets: for health professionals and consumers:** The Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre (CCN/C), the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment (CCOHTA), and the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC) collaboratively produce these evidence-based resource sheets for three audiences - health professionals, consumers, and health policy planners: http://www.ctfphc.org/Resource%20sheets/resource_sheets.htm

Open Access (Free) Electronic Journals

Many journal publishers now make their journals available on the Internet. A subscription is required for some titles, but some publishers offer free access to these e-journals. The following are just a sampling of web sites that link to collections of freely available electronic journals (check the web site of the journal's publisher if you do not find the title you need through the sources below).

- ✓ BioMed Central: http://www.biomedcentral.com
- ✓ Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): http://www.doaj.org/
- ✓ Free Medical Journals.com: http://www.freemedicaljournals.com
- ✓ Hardin MD – Free Medical Journals Search: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/md/pm/freejournals.html
- ✓ Public Library of Science (PLoS): http://www.plos.org
- ✓ PubMed Central (PMC): http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov
- ✓ Free biomedical literature resources compiled by the US National Library of Medicine. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/docline/freehealthlit.html

VORTAL
HTAi – Information Resources Group

Launched in 2005, this "vertical, subject specific portal" of useful HTA web links is compiled by HTA librarians from around the world.
Available at: http://www.htai.org/vortal

Comments on this guide are welcome and can be sent to:
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